Business Plan
2016–2017

Public Prosecution Service

NOVA SCOTIA

November 24, 2015

Public Prosecution Service
2016/17 Departmental Business Plan:

Section 1- Mandate:

The Nova Scotia Public Prosecution Service (PPS) is a functionally independent agency of government created by the Public Prosecutions Act. It shares a common Minister and some common services with the Department of Justice (DOJ), but it is not a division nor part of the Department of Justice. In addition to its statutory responsibilities, the Public Prosecution Service and its members contribute, where appropriate and feasible, to the formulation of public policy in the administration of justice.
The Public Prosecution Service, by statute, is responsible for:

- prosecution of all Criminal Code offences;
- prosecution of some other federal statutes;
- prosecution of provincial summary conviction offences;
- appeals before the Supreme Court of Nova Scotia;
- appeals before the Nova Scotia Court of Appeal;
- appeals before the Supreme Court of Canada;
- representation at Criminal Review Board hearings; and
- providing advice to police in respect of prosecutions generally or in respect of particular investigations.

Section 2- Department's link to government's three priorities:

Priorities, Outcomes and Goals

- To compliment the government's Experience Through Opportunity Program, the PPS will provide students of the IB & M Initiative at the Schulich School of Law with opportunities for employment as Articling Clerks.

Actions

- In 2016/17 hire an Articling Clerk through the IB & M Initiative.

Performance Measures

- Increased numbers of Black and Mi'kmaq graduates gaining experience working with the Public Prosecution Service. Currently, the PPS has three (3) Black Crown Attorneys and one (1) Aboriginal Crown Attorney.

Section 3 – Core Responsibilities/Services

Department Core Services, Outcomes and Goals

- Represent the Crown in the conduct of criminal trials and quasi-criminal appeals before all levels of courts.
- Participate in the development of criminal law and criminal prosecutions policy.
- Provide advice to police in respect of prosecutions generally or in respect of particular investigations.

Actions

- Continue to provide high quality trial and appeal work.
- Implement PPS recommendations made in the Murray Segal report *Independent Review of the Police and Prosecution Response to the Rehtaeh Parsons Case*.
- Continue work on the implementation, operation and expansion of the e-Disclosure initiative including the implementation of electronic file transfer which will allow for the "instant" transmission of e-Disclosure files between parties.
- Provide Crown representation in the development of criminal law and criminal prosecutions policy.
- Provide police with high quality legal advice and assistance.
- PPS will continue its collaboration with justice system stakeholders to reduce delays in adult and youth case processing.

Inputs

- Provide continuing education to full-time Crown Attorneys, Per Diem Crown Attorneys and Support Staff.
- Request the funding and FTEs to create two (2) Crown Attorney positions dedicated to ICE (Internet Child Exploitation) prosecutions.
- More ICE prosecutions conducted by Crown Attorneys in the regions, with support and guidance in major prosecutions being provided by specialized Crown Attorneys working in the Special Prosecutions Unit.
- Contribute to the development of criminal law policies and procedures in conjunction with federal and provincial Departments of Justice. Liaise with law enforcement agencies, government, the judiciary and professional associations on policy and procedural matters.
- Performance appraisals, records kept by Crown Attorneys of quality work shared with managers during ongoing performance appraisals, justice statistics regarding charges laid, disposition results.
- Responding to complaints against Crown Attorneys, provide counsel and advice to Crown Attorneys when necessary.
- Regular meetings with police at regional level to obtain feedback regarding interaction with Crowns.
- Policy guidance for Crown Attorneys and Support Staff is expanded through timely anticipation of criminal law amendments which require policy guidance for prosecutors, and the development of a comprehensive guide to best business and administrative practices for support staff.
- The standardization of vetting and redaction processes for identifying sensitive information prior to the Crown providing the defence with disclosure of the Crown's case.

Departmental Expenses Summary
($ thousands)

Programs and Services	2015-2016 Estimate	2015-2016 Forecast	2016-2017 Estimate
Head Office	2,700	2,680	2,728
Cape Breton Region	3,554	3,450	3,524
Central Region	3,026	3,170	3,040
Halifax Region	7,539	7,699	7,518
Western Region	3,048	3,132	3,122
Appeals Division	1,141	1,237	1,140
Special Prosecution Service	1,815	1,825	1,943
Total - Departmental Expenses	22,823	23,193	23,015
Ordinary Recoveries	262	243	262
Funded Staff (# of FTEs)			
Department Funded Staff	167.8	163.7	167.8

Note:
For Ordinary Revenues, see Estimates and Supplementary Detail Book, Chapter 2
For TCA Purchase Requirements, see Estimates and Supplementary Detail Book, Chapter 1